

In The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1 1. (Previously Presented) A method for providing flotation to a wing of an agricultural
2 seeder relative to the ground, comprising the steps of:
 - 3 a) providing a wheel-supported main frame adapted to be removably affixed
4 to a tractor for movement along the ground in a direction of travel;
 - 5 b) providing a first elongated wing with an inner end and an opposing outer
6 end, the first wing having a longitudinal axis generally perpendicular to the
7 direction of travel and a center point along the longitudinal axis generally
8 equidistant from the inner and outer ends;
 - 9 c) providing a first plurality of seeders affixed to the first wing and generally
10 regularly spaced along the longitudinal axis thereof;
 - 11 d) providing a first elongated support arm pivotally affixed at one end to the
12 main frame and at the other end to the center point of the first wing;
 - 13 e) providing a first hydraulic cylinder interconnecting directly at the first
14 support arm and directly at the main frame such that the first cylinder can raise
15 the first wing to a transport position and lower the first wing to a working position
16 in contact with the ground;
 - 17 f) providing a second elongated wing with an inner end and an opposing
18 outer end, the second wing having a longitudinal axis generally perpendicular to
19 the direction of travel and a center point along the longitudinal axis generally
20 equidistant from the inner and outer ends, said inner ends of said respective first
21 and second wings being generally adjacent to each other in the working position
22 and form a generally continuous line across the width of the seeder;
 - 23 g) providing a second plurality of seeders affixed to the second wing and
24 generally regularly spaced along the longitudinal axis thereof;

h) providing a second elongated support arm pivotally affixed at one end to the main frame opposite the point at which the first support arm is affixed and at the other end to the center point of the second wing such that the first and second wings are on opposite side of the main frame;

i) providing a second hydraulic cylinder interconnecting directly at the second support arm and directly at the main frame such that the second cylinder can raise the second wing to a transport position and lower the second wing to a working position in contact with the ground;

j) lowering the first and second wings to the ground by activating the respective first and second hydraulic cylinders; and

k) locking the first and second hydraulic cylinders in the lower position whereby the first and second wings float about the point at which the first and second support arms are pivotally affixed to the center points of the respective first and second wings,

wherein the first and second wings are only attached to the wheel-supported main frame by the first and second support arms, respectively, so that inner and outer ends pivot freely only about the center point of each first and second wings.

2. Cancelled.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, including the step of:

activating the first and second hydraulic cylinders at the same time to raise and lower the first and second wings in substantial unison.

1 4. (Currently Amended) An agricultural seeder comprising:

2 a wheel-supported main frame with first and second opposing lateral sides and adapted to
3 be removably affixed to a tractor for movement along the ground in a direction of travel;

4 first and second elongated wings each with an inner end and an opposing outer end and
5 each having a longitudinal axis generally perpendicular to the direction of travel and a center
6 point along the longitudinal axis generally equidistant from the respective inner and outer ends;

7 a plurality of seeders affixed to the first and second wings and generally regularly spaced
8 along the longitudinal axes thereof;

9 a first elongated support arm pivotally affixed at one end to the first lateral side of the
10 main frame and at the other end to the center point of the first wing;

11 a second elongated support arm pivotally affixed at one end to the second lateral side of
12 the main frame and at the other end to the center point of the second wing;

13 a first hydraulic cylinder interconnecting the [first wing] first elongated support arm and
14 the main frame such that activation of the first cylinder can raise the first wing to a transport
15 position and lower the first wing to a working position in contact with the ground;

16 a second hydraulic cylinder interconnecting the [second wing] second elongated support
17 arm and the main frame such that activation of the second cylinder can raise the second wing to a
18 transport position and lower the second wing to a working position in contact with the ground,
19 whereby lowering and locking;

20 the respective inner ends of said wings being closely adjacent to each other when in the
21 working position, forming a generally continuous line across the width of said seeder; and

22 both the first and second hydraulic cylinders having a lock thereon to hold the respective
23 cylinder in the working position whereby when in the working position, the wings float relative
24 to the ground,

25 wherein the first and second wings are only attached to the wheel-supported main frame
26 by the first and second support arms, respectively, so that inner and outer ends float only about
27 the center point of each first and second wings.

1 5. (Currently Amended) The seeder of claim 4, further including:

2 [an] a hydraulic control system connected to the first and second hydraulic cylinders to
3 manage the activation of the cylinders.

1 6. (Currently Amended) In an agricultural seeder having a main frame with first and
2 second opposing lateral sides and first and second wings pivotably attached thereto and a
3 hydraulic control system that pivots the wings between a raised transport position and a lowered
4 operating position in contact with the ground, the improvement comprising:

5 the first and second wings each with a longitudinal axis and a center point along their
6 respective longitudinal axes, the first and second wings only pivotably attached to respective
7 lateral sides of the main frame by a structure including first and second substantially identical
8 support arms each having a first end pivotably attached directly at the main frame and an
9 opposing second end pivotably attached directly at the respective wing at the center point such
10 that the wings float only about the center point pivotally attached directly at the second end of
11 the support arm relative to the ground; [and]

12 each wing having an inner end and an outer end such that in the working position the
13 respective longitudinal axes of the two are generally aligned, with the inner ends closely adjacent
14 to each other thereby forming a generally continuous line along the width of the seeder;[.]

15 the hydraulic control system includes a first hydraulic cylinder interconnecting the first
16 support arm and the main frame such that activation of the first cylinder can raise the first wing
17 to a transport position and lower the first wing to a working position in contact with the ground;
18 and

19 the hydraulic control system includes a second hydraulic cylinder interconnecting the
20 second support arm and the main frame such that activation of the second cylinder can raise the
21 second wing to a transport position and lower the second wing to a working position in contact
22 with the ground.

1 7. (Original) The improvement of claim 6, further including:

2 a plurality of seeders affixed to the first and second wings and generally regularly spaced
3 along the longitudinal axes thereof.

1 Claims 8 and 9 (Cancelled)

1 10. (Original) The improvement of claim 6 [9], wherein:

2 both the first and second hydraulic cylinders have a lock thereon to hold the respective
3 cylinder in the working position whereby when in the working position, the wings float relative
4 to the ground.

1 11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further including the step of:

2 moving the first and second elongated wings to the transport position wherein both the
3 first and second elongated wings are generally vertically aligned.

1 12. (Previously Presented) The agricultural seeder as recited in claim 4, wherein the first
2 and second wings in the transport position are generally vertically aligned.

1 13. (Previously Presented) The improvement of claim 6, wherein the first and second
2 wings in the transport position are generally vertically aligned.